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1954/07/17

From testimony of Secretary Dulles before House Appropriations Committee

7/17/54

It is reported from Geneva that the Soviet and Chinese Communists are very eager to have early elections in war-torn Vietnam.

It will be recalled that the Declaration of Principles, subscribed here in Washington by President Eisenhower and Prime Minister Churchill, held that: "In the case of nations now divided against their will, we shall continue to seek to achieve unity through free elections supervised by the United Nations to insure they are conducted fairly." The United States stands by that principle in relation to Germany, Korea and the other countries which may be divided. We challenge the Communists to accept the principle as one of general application and we suggest that there should now be agreement to hold United Nations supervised elections to unite Germany, Korea and Vietnam when the United Nations find that conditions are such that the electorate can fairly express themselves.

It is also reported that the Communists at Geneva are concerned over the question of whether or not the United States will sign whatever

Indochina armistice is concluded at Geneva. In this connection it may be observed that the Korean Armistice Agreement signed a year ago still lacks signatures which would bind Soviet Russia or the Chinese Communist regime.